THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Tea Board has developed a Logo known as the DARJEELING Logo for proper authentication of regional origin of Darjeeling tea. At a legal level, Tea Board is the owner of all intellectual property rights in the Darjeeling word and logo both in common law and under the provisions of the Trade marks Act. 1999; the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 and the Copyright Act, 1957.

(c) Government of India through Tea Board has been taking various steps to boost export of tea which include conducting promotional activities in the foreign markets, participation in international fairs/exhibitions, media publicity, buyer-seller meets, exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries, lending promotional support to tea exporters in their marketing efforts.

Tea Board is also implementing a scheme for providing incentive for production of orthodox tea for ensuring the availability of export quality orthodox tea in adequate quantities. The Government is also assisting tea exporters towards meeting the additional transport and handling charges incurred for teas exported through Inland Container Deport (ICD), Amingaon in Assam.

Agreement with Vietnam on cashewnut

874. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive agreement has been executed between India and Vietnam for production, processing and export of cashew nut;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of the measures being taken by Government for increasing the production of cashew nut and the achievement in this regard;

(d) whether Government would also contemplate the possibility of production and processing of cashew nut in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Cashewnut Export Promotion Council of India (CPECI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Vietnam Cashew Association (VINACAS) and Brazil Cashew Association (SINDICAJU) for the formation of World Cashew Association with the object of increasing consumption of cashewnut, it's use as a food ingredient, research and development and enhancement of cashew trade worldwide.

(c) The Government is involved in developmental measures to augment cashew production in the country through implementation of centrally sponsored schemes for cashew in various States under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM). New plantation development and replanting old senile and uneconomical cashew gardens with high yielding varieties are the major programmes implemented by various States for increasing production and productivity of cashewnut. Details are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(d) and (e) Yes, the State of Madhya Pradesh is also included under the developmental activities of cashewnut. With the formation of Chhattisgarh State in the year 2000, development programmes of cashewnut with Central assistance are being implemented in Chhattisgarh only since the cashew belt covers this area only. The processing of cashewnut falls within the purview of State Horticulture Mission activity.

Statement

NHM-2005-06 and 2006-07 *— achievement of Development Programmes of Cashewnut*

(area in hectares; Rupees in lakhs)

State/Programme		Target		Achievement	
		Physical (Area)	Financial (Expenditure)	Physical* (Area)	Financial (Expenditure)
1		2	3	4	5
1. New Planting					
Kerala	FP	3200	225.000	1307	72.2500
Karnataka	FP	10452	509.080	9853	495.156
Goa	FP	630	33.740	410	52.920
	M	866		1086	
Maharashtra	FP	9500	1306.470	8905	1043.360
	M	5227		4286	
Tamilnadu	FP	3500	214.875	2781	175.440
	M	800		800	
Andhra Pr.	FP	4959	278.920	2907	134.534
Orissa	FP	10000	1125.300	6558	386.560
West Bengal	FP	1600	105.750	271	28.524
	M	700	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	FP	3000	168.750	1719	51.550
Jharkhand	FP	500	—	—	—
Assam	FP	1000	130.000	840	109.200
Meghalaya	FP	605	77.650	625	81.250
Tripura	FP	1100	143.000	8	1.014
Nagaland	FP	200	26.000	200	26.000

NB: For the year 2006-07, West Bengal and Tripura has not forwarded achievement of the programme.

2. Replanting/rejuvenation of old senile cashew gardens

Kerala	FP	15500	1677.000	2310	293.034
Rehabilitation-drought)		2900	311.100	2895	280.300
Karnataka	FP	360	53.930	—	0.050

1		2	3	4	5
Goa	FP	2007	114.250	1195	104.060
	M	551	—	481	—
Maharashtra	FP	443	66.450	0	0
Tamilnadu	FP	1300	195.000	1320	175.525
Andhra Pr.	FP	7079	627.007	6971	253.285
Orissa	FP	3000	450.000	1303	195.460
West Bengal	FP	700	105.000	149	22.305

Note: The States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, have not implemented/reported the achievement of the programme. (FP-fresh plantation had M-maintenance) (source: Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development)

Reduction in export duty on iron ore

875. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the export duty on iron ore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for this reduction;

(d) how much revenue will decrease due to this; and

(e) what are the steps Government is taking to fill this difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Budget 2007-08, an export duty of Rs. 300 per metric tonne was imposed on iron ores and concentrates, all sorts, *w.e.f.* 3rd May, 2007, the rate of export duty on iron ore fines of iron content upto 62% has been reduced to Rs. 50 per metric tonne. Reduction in export duty was done after considering various representations received from the stakeholders, various trade and industry associations and Chambers of Commerce, in order to encourage the export of such ores for which a ready market for consumption within the country is not there.

(d) Whether or not there is decrease in revenue due to this reduction in export duty would depend on whether the pattern of export of various grades of iron ore changes on account of this reduction.

(e) Government has not taken any specific steps in this regard, so far.

Decline in production due to hardening of rupee

876. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production has declined in export oriented industries like metal products, textile, garments, leather and leather products from 28 per cent last year to 18 per cent this year in April—July as a result of hardening of rupee against dollar;